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Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**RE: CC Docket No. 01-92**  
**CC Docket No. 96-45**

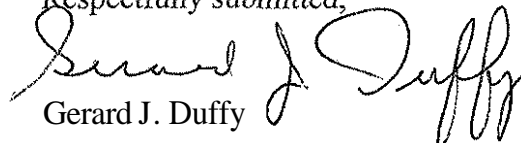
Dear Ms. Dortch

On April 18, 2007, Greg Dean, Mark Bahnson, Pamela Harrington and Gerard J. Duffy representing the South Dakota Telecommunications Association ("SDTA") met with John W. Hunter, Chief of Staff and Senior Legal Advisor for Commissioner Robert M. McDowell, and Ryan K. Mullady of Commissioner McDowell's staff, to discuss generally the concerns of South Dakota rural telephone companies regarding universal service and intercarrier compensation.

The topics included: (1) the need for sufficient and stable Universal Service support to enable rural telephone companies to obtain the loans necessary for essential rural infrastructure investment; (2) the likely adverse impacts of reverse Universal Service auctions upon rural investment incentives and loan funds; (3) the advantages and disadvantages of various potential interim measures (such as freezes and caps) for controlling the growth of the Universal Service Fund; (4) the rationale for potential long-term solutions to Universal Service support issues, such as separate wireline and wireless mechanisms; (5) the need for a fair and reasonable resolution of the respective transport obligations of rural telephone companies and wireless carriers; (6) the need for Commission action on the phantom traffic proposals in the Missoula Plan; and (7) the status of the other Missoula Plan proposals.

This notice is being filed via the Electronic Comment Filing System in each of the referenced dockets.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Gerard J. Duffy

cc: John W. Hunter  
Ryan K. Mullady